

## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND ARABIC VERB

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### *Abstract*

*This paper is to know the similarities and differences between English and Arabic verb. The similarities between English and Arabic verb can be used as media to learn both languages. The English verb is the same as Arabic that needs object and has the agreement of the subject and the verb. The difference between English and Arabic verb is that English verb has no change of the first letter of the verb because of the change of the various subject.*

**Keywords:** *fi'il madli, mudlori', amr, transitive verb, intransitive verb*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is media to express idea. There are two languages used by the language users, they are verbal and non-verbal language. Human being uses verbal and non-verbal language for expressing idea and intention. English and Arabic language are verbal languages admitted as international languages. For Indonesian people, Arabic and English language are foreign language. Some of the Indonesian people, as the language learners, learn Arabic and English for their specific purposes. Some of them said that Arabic language is more difficult than English language and some of them said that Arabic language is more difficult than English.

Indonesian people learn English because it is one of the international languages which is widely used by the people around the world. Lots of books are written in English, lots of product instructions are written in English, the students who want to continue studying at international universities have to take English test, internet and computer instructions are also written in English.

Arabic language is also one of the international languages which is widely used by Indonesian people. There are many Islamic and boarding schools in Indonesia. The students who learn in these schools will get Arabic language in curriculum. Many Indonesian Muslims also learn Arabic to study and learn the Holy Quran and prophetic tradition which are originally written in Arabic.

Both of English and Arabic verb has similarities besides their differences. Actually the students, as the language learners, are able to learn both languages using their similarities and differences. What are the similarities and the differences of the English and Arabic verb?

## 2. Discussion

### English Verb

There are many linguists that describe the definition of the verb. Hornby (1987: 953) explained that verb is word or phrase indicating what somebody or something does. Meanwhile, according to Murthy (2003: 86), "A verb is described as a word which is used to indicate an action, a state of being of existence or possession".

According to many linguists above, it is clear that the definition of the verb is the word that identifies the activity or the action which is done by doer of the action either the person or something such as *to give, to bring, to go* and so on.

The verb itself can be divided into many kinds based on its classification. In general, the classification of the verb (English) based on the time can be classified into three.

Murthy (2003: 151) said:

"The tenses of English verb are divided into: 1. Present Tense consists of: (a) Simple Present Tense (b) Present Continuous Tense (c) Present Perfect Tense d. Present Perfect Continuous Tense 2. Past Tense consists of: (a) Simple Past Tense (b) Past Continuous Tense (c) Past Perfect Tense (d) Past Perfect Continuous Tense 3. Future Tense consists of: (a) Simple Future Tense (b) Future Continuous Tense (c) Future Perfect Tense (d) Future Perfect Continuous Tense".

The verb also can be classified based on the need of the object of the verb. Based on this classification, the verb can be classified into two kinds, they are transitive and intransitive verb. According to Swan (2000: 579) "Verb is divided into two kinds :1. Transitive verb 2. Intransitive verb. Transitive verb is some verbs usually followed by nouns or pronouns that act as direct object. Intransitive verb is some verbs are normally not followed by direct objects.

Some of the transitive verbs are followed by one object or direct object and some of the verbs are followed by two objects.

The example of intransitive verb is *I run very quickly*. The word *run* is the verb that does not need an object. The example of the verb that needs object is *the students read books*. The word *read* is the verb that needs object because the sentence is not complete by the absence of the object *books*.

The English verb also can be changed from active into passive voice using certain rule. Wishon (1980:216) said, "The passive form is composed of some form of the verb *be* + the appropriate auxiliary, if any, + the past participle form of the verb". The passive voice or the passive form is used when it is not important to know the doer of the activity when the doer of the activity is not known. The example of passive voice is *The letter is written by the students*.

English verb has the agreement of the subject and the verb. The English verb must agree with the subject (noun) in number and person such as *I go to Surabaya, You go to Surabaya, Fadel (he) goes to Surabaya, the students (they) go to Surabaya and we go to Surabaya*. Murphy (1998: 20) said that *I work, we like, you*

*do, they have, he works, she likes, she does, it has*. From these examples it is clear that the simple present tense verb is changed at the end of the verb. It can be seen from the various change of the end of the verb.

### Arabic Verb

There are some linguists that define Arabic Verb. Malik (2004: 13) said, "Al-fi'lu maa dala alaa hadatsin wa huwa kalimatun tadullu alaa syaiin muqtarinin bi zamaanin sawaan akaana maadliyan nahwu qooma zaidun am mustaqbalan nahwu: qum muhtamilan lil haal aw al istiqaal nahwu: yaquumu zaidun". It means that the verb is something that shows action related to time either in the past like, *qooma* Zaidun (Zaidun stood) or future like: stand up or at present and future like *yaquumu* zaidun (Zaidun is standing).

Al-Jarim and amin (1999: 16) said, "Al-fi'il huwa kullu lafdzin yadullu 'ala hushul syai'in fi al-zaman al-khas". It means that a verb is a word that shows the state of being or the occurrence of an activity at a certain time.

According to Al-Jarim and amin (1999: 19):

"*Taqsiim al-fi'il bi'ibaari zamaanihi (1) al-fi'il al-madli wa huwa kullu fi'il yadullu 'ala hushul amalin fi zaman al-madli (2) fill mudlari' huwa kullu fi'il vadullu 'ala hushul 'amal fi zaman al-hadlir aw almustaqbal (3) fi'il amr wa huwa kullu fi'il yuthlabu bihi hushul syai'in fii zaman al-mustaqbal*".

Based on the statements above, it is clear that the kinds of the verb in the point of view of the time are three, (1). *Fi'il Madli* (the verb that shows the occurrence of the activities in the past, (2) *Fi'il Mudlari'* (the verb that denotes the occurrence of the activities at present, (3) *Fi'il Amr* (the verb that asks to do something).

The kinds of the verb are past tense that is the verb that shows the occurrence of an action before the time of speaking such as *read*, present tense is the verb that shows the occurrence of an action at present, imperative verb is the verb that asks to do an action after speaking.

The Arabic verb based on the need of the object is also categorized into *fi'il muta'addy* (transitive verb) and *fi'il lazim*

(intransitive verb). Al-Jarim and amin (1999: 68-68) said, " *Al-fi'lu yanqosimu qismaini: laazimun wa muta'addin. Al-fi'lu al-laazimu huwa maa laa yansihibu al-maf'uula bihi, wa al-al-fi'u al-muta'addiy huwa al-ladzii yanshibuhu*". It means that verb is divided into two kinds: *lazim* and *muta'addy*. *Fi'il Muta'addy* (transitive verb) is the verb that needs an object and *fi'il lazim* (Intransitive verb) is the verb that does not need an object.

The Arabic verb or *fi'il* has to be agreed with the subject or *fa'il* (the doer of an action). The present verb should be appropriate with the subject of the verb either at the first and the final of the letter of the verb.

Al-Jarim and amin (1999: 22) said " *Al-fi'lu al-mudhori'u huwa kullu fi'lin yadullu 'ala hushuuli 'amalin fi al-zamaan al haadlir aw al mustaqbal wa laa budda any yakuuna mabduu'an bi harfin min ahrufi al-mudloro'ati wa hiya al-hamzatu, wa al nuunu wa al ya'u wa al-taa'u*.

This means that *fi'il mudlari'* has to be preceded by the letters of *mudlari'* (*Anaitu*), *al-hamzah* is for one first person male or female, *nun* is for more than one first person male or female, *al-ya* for one

male third person and plural for female third person, *al-ta'* for the second person and one female third person. It is clear that *fi'il mudlari'* has to be preceded by the alphabets or the letters of *mudlari'* such as *Ana aktubu al-darsa* (I write a lesson), *Anta taktubu al-darsa* (you write a lesson), *Fadel yaktubu al-darsa* (Fadel writes a lesson) and so on. From these example, it can be seen that the examples *ana aktubu*, *Anta taktubu*, *Anta taktubu* are the examples of appropriateness of subject and the verb. The subject *ana* is appropriate with *aktubu*. *anta* is appropriate with *taktubu*, *Fadel* is appropriate with *yaktubu*.

Arabic verb also has passive form called *mabniy majhul*. Al-Jarim and amin (1999: 147: 148) said, "*Naaibu al-fa'il: ismun marfuu'un halla mahalla al-faa'ili ba'da hadzfihi. Idzaa usnida al-fi'lu ilaa naaibi al-faa'ili wa kaana maadliyan dlumma awwaluhu wa kusiro al-harfu al lladzii qobla aakhiri, wa in kaana mudloori'an dlumma awwaluhu wa futiha al-harfu al ladzii qobla aakhiri, wa al-f'lu al lladzii yahdutzu haadza taghyiir yusammaa mabniyyan lil majhuuli*. It means that *Naaibul fa'il* is noun that takes place the position of subject after disappearing. *Naaibul faa'il* from past

verb is by putting *dlommah* at first past verb and *kasroh* before the last harokat and *naaibul faa'il* from present verb is by putting *dlommah* at the first harokat of the verb and *fathah* before the last *harokat*. The example of past verb (*fi'il maadli*) is the verb *fataha* becomes *futiha* and the example of present verb (*fi'il mudlori'*) is *yaftahu* becomes *yuftahu*. The example in a sentence of present verb is *Muhaammadun yaftahu al-baaba* (Muhammad opens the book) becomes *futiha al-baabu* (the door is opened) and the example of present verb is *fataha Muhammadun al-baaba* (Muhammadun opened the door) becomes *futiha al-baabu* (the door was opened).

### 3.CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that there are similarities and differences between English and Arabic verb.

#### A. Similarities of the English and Arabic Verb are:

- 1) English and Arabic verb show an activity or occurrence with a specific time.
- 2) English and Arabic verb need an object either one object or more than one object.

- 3) English and Arabic verb has the agreement of the verb and the subject
- 4) English and Arabic verb can be formed from active into passive.

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#### **B. Differences of the English and Arabic Verb are:**

- 1) Based on the time, the kinds of the Arabic verb are divided into three and the kinds of the English verb are more than three
- 2) The agreement of the English verb of the subject only occurs at the end of the verb and the agreement of the Arabic verb of the subject occurs at the first letter of the verb and the last letter of the verb.

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